

# Safety On The Road

## Seconds Count In A Vehicle Fire

Seconds count when fire breaks out. Vehicle fires can spread rapidly and result in deadly explosions. Human safety is the first concern, so make your escape and keep others away from the fire scene.

### **Here are some guidelines for dealing with a fire in a vehicle:**

- Call for help on your radio, or have someone else call immediately. Give the best description you can of your location, such as mileage from a certain point, or the name of nearby intersecting streets. If you assign someone else to make the call, have the person report back to you.
- Warn other traffic to prevent a collision with your vehicle.
- Fight the fire only if you can do so safely. Use the correct fire extinguisher, keeping the wind at your back so the extinguisher content is not blown toward you.
- Look around for a water supply such as a nearby pond or stream to help cool the fire. However, do not use water on a fire in a petrochemical product such as gasoline, diesel or a flammable liquid cargo because this will only spread the fire.
- You might be able to use sand or dirt to smother the fire.
- In case of an electrical fire, shut off the ignition or try to disconnect the battery cables from the terminals, if you can do so safely.
- For tire fires, water is your best bet. Remove the hot tire if you can do so safely.
- In the case of cargo fires, disconnect the tractor from the trailer and move the tractor away if possible.
- Tell firefighters in advance what the cargo is so they know what they are dealing with. Take your cargo documents when you leave the truck to help emergency personnel.
- Pay attention to the warning signs relating to any dangerous cargo you may be transporting. Know the proper emergency response for the cargo you are hauling.
- In the case of a refrigerated trailer unit, know what type of refrigerant you are dealing with. Some of these substances have fire or toxic hazards.
- Close tank covers to put out a fire by smothering it.
- You may be able to contain burning liquid with a dirt barrier.
- Be aware of company policy about helping other truckers and motorists in case of fire or other emergencies. If you are helping fight a fire, keep your own vehicle at a safe distance, uphill from leaking fuel.

*Take advantage of any fire safety training offered by the company, local fire department or other organization to learn what to do in case of an emergency. Printed and video training materials are useful, but no substitute for actual hands-on supervised practice with a fire extinguisher.*

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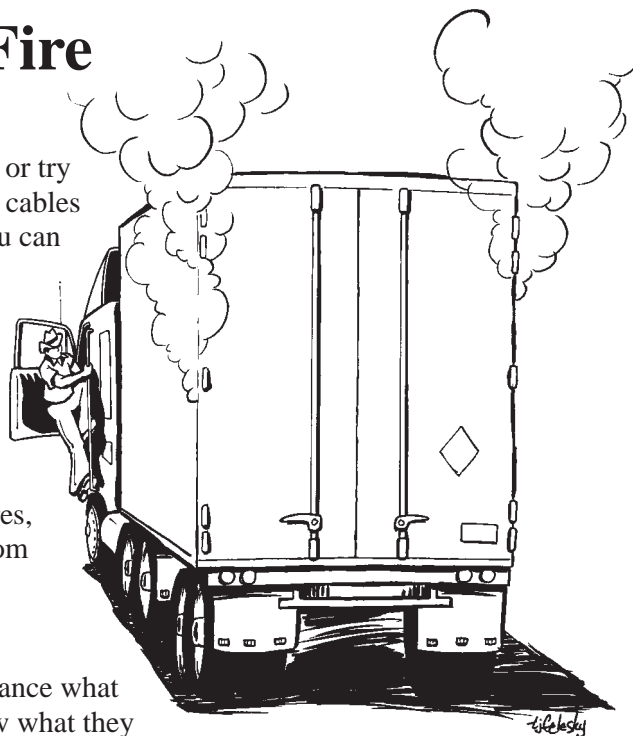
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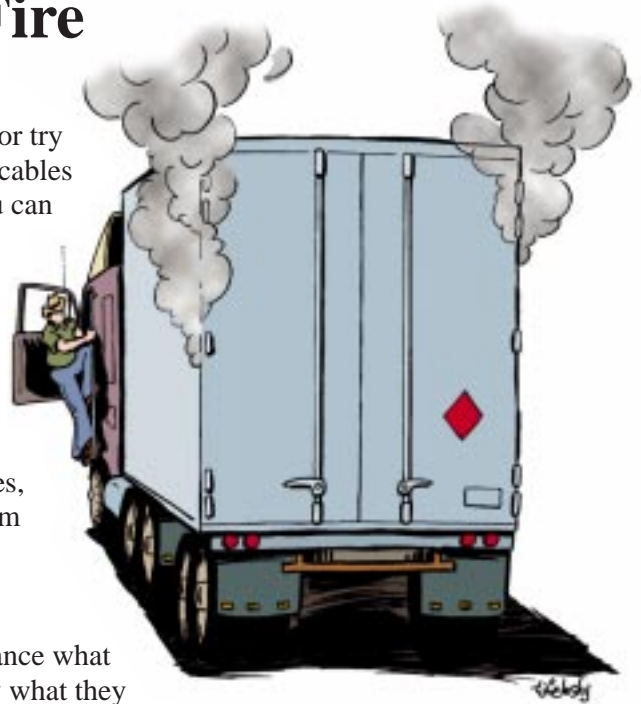
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